

Local Government Grant Update

Office of Community Development

Rural Philanthropy in Action: Pointe Coupée Residents Establish Their Own Community Fund



Community leaders Gail Hurst (left) and Joanna Wurtele (right) were instrumental in the creation of the Fund - Photo by Jackson Hill

It started merely as an idea. The idea became a reality in March of 2003 with the first donation of a simple \$100 bill. A month later, they had collected more than \$100,000. The Pointe Coupée Community Enrichment Fund was

firmly established. In a parish where the average per capita income is \$21,701, one would not think that Pointe Coupée Parish is an ideal location for the first rural philanthropy project in the Southeast. It has been, however, an unbridled success. Members of the community have pitched in and worked together with no regard for traditional race, class, and religious lines to become the pilot project for a new tool available to all rural areas in the South called the *Philanthropy Index*. This tool measures and identifies the giving capacities of small towns and rural communities. The results in this case were surprising.

Pointe Coupée proved to have more potential than anyone had anticipated. It also helps by pointing community leaders in the right direction to tap that potential. Through the use of the *Philanthropy Index* and other community projects such as HOPE Ministries, a nonprofit formed in 1995 by local churches and social service agencies, the Pointe Coupée Community Enrichment Fund was established with the help of LANO (Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations) and BRAF (Baton Rouge Area Foundation). BRAF provides professional management of the fund, allowing the community to focus on how best to allocate the funds.

LANO
Louisiana Association of
Nonprofit Organizations

www.lano.org
contactus@lano.org

(225)343-5266

**The Philanthropy
Index Clearinghouse**

amcgregor@srdi.org
www.philanthropyindex.org

(828)285-9230

**Pointe Coupée Community
Enrichment Fund**

Aletha Moore, Chairman

alethamoore@hotmail.com

**Baton Rouge Area
Foundation**

www.braf.org

(225)387-6126

*"It used to be that you
had to be rich to give.
The idea behind the
Enrichment Fund is
that anyone and
everyone can put in.
Now everyone can be a
philanthropist."
- Gail Hurst*

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Things to remember:

- You can always use OCD's online Grants Database, the **Louisiana Assistance Resource Center** to help find resource opportunities on your own at: www.larconline.com
- Call OCD for extra assistance or with any questions at (225)342-7412
- Use the contact information included with each opportunity to learn more detailed information.

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Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing



Grant funds will be awarded to national organizations to help the localities.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development has opened grant applications for the Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing program. The purpose of the program is to provide funding to the community development corporations of the Enterprise Foundation, LISC

(Local Initiative Support Corporation), Habitat for Humanity and YouthBuild USA. Their purpose is to develop the capacity to undertake community development and affordable housing projects and programs in rural areas. The Enterprise Foundation, LISC, Habitat for Humanity and YouthBuild USA are the only eligible applicants. LISC, Habitat for Humanity and YouthBuild USA have local offices in Louisiana. If you are interested in any of these programs to help out your community, contact your nearest office.

LISC Offices:

Baton Rouge - (225)248-8630

Rural LISC - (202) 739-9283

www.lisc/batonrouge/.org

www.rurallisc.org - info@rurallisc.org

YouthBuild USA - (617)623-9900

www.youthbuild.org

ybinfo@youthbuild.org

Habitat for Humanity - (229) 924-6935

www.habitat.org

publicinfo@hfhi.org

Revitalize Your Public Housing with Help from HUD

Applications are due February 1, 2005

for the FY 2004 Revitalization of Severely Distressed Public Housing HOPE VI Revitalization Grants. All Public Housing Authorities (PHA) with severely distressed public housing are eligible to apply. A 5% match is required. An eligible PHA may use funds from this program to improve the living environment for public housing residents of severely distressed public housing projects through demolition, rehabilitation, reconfiguration, or replacement of obsolete housing

projects, to revitalize sites on which public housing projects are located and the surrounding neighborhood, to provide housing to decrease the concentration of residents, and to build sustainable communities. A minimum of 6 awards will be made with the maximum award amount set at \$20 million. For more information, visit HUD's website or call them directly:

Web Address: www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/otherhud.cfm

Phone: (202)402-8812

"Improve the living environment for public housing residents of severely distressed public housing projects through demolition, rehabilitation, reconfiguration, or replacement of obsolete housing projects." - HUD Funding Notice

Free Internet and Legal Services for Nonprofit Organizations

An organization called Grassroots.org is offering free Internet business services and legal consulting for charitable organizations. Internet business services include free email (up to 5 accounts) and full-featured Web Hosting. Non-religious organizations involved in education, environmentalism, humanitarian re-



Grassroots.org is changing the world via the Internet.

lief, fighting disease, homeless issues, crime control, political freedom, government reform, consumer protection, youth issues, addiction, and other like-minded, non-legislative causes are eligible to receive these free services.

Visit their website to apply:

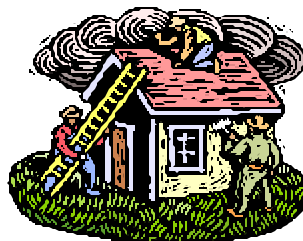
www.grassroots.org

Grassroots.org is dedicated to helping change the world slowly but surely via the Internet at local, national, and international levels. The website also provides a number of links to other charitable websites.

Foundation Focus: Rebuilding Together, Inc.

Federal spending on housing has decreased 50% since 1980, yet homeownership is expected to increase by 13-15 million households by the year 2010. In addition, community revitalization projects, government-assisted living projects and other housing grants often leave one or two homes in a neighborhood overlooked. To fill in the gaps, Rebuilding Together, Inc. was founded in 1988. Rebuilding Together's mission is to preserve and revitalize houses and communities, assuring that low-income homeowners, from the elderly and disabled to families with chil-

dren, live in warmth, safety, and independence. In partnership with communities, their goal is to make a sustainable impact. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., Rebuilding Together encourages affiliates to organize nationwide. The national office offers help with program development, board and staff development, marketing, communications, and financial

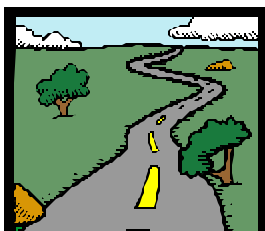


Volunteers work to preserve and revitalize low-income houses and communities

management to all of its affiliates. Currently there are 4 affiliates located in Louisiana. They are located in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Lafayette, and Calcasieu Parish. Contact the national office or visit the website to find out who to contact in your area.

Contact info:
Phone: (202) 483-9083
Toll-Free: 1-800-4-REHAB-9
www.rebuildingtogether.org

Scenic Byway Funds Available



Coordinate with the State to improve your scenic byways

There are 17 official State scenic byways and one All-American road in Louisiana. The Federal Highway Administration is offering funds for projects in-

volving these roads and their surrounding areas. Several types of projects are eligible under the program, such as Corridor

Management (maintenance of the scenic, historical, recreational, cultural, natural, and archeological characteristics of the corridor), Safety Improvements, Byway Facilities (rest areas, shoulder improvement, overlooks, turn-outs), Access to Recreation (including water-related recreation), Resource Protection, Interpretive Information (development and provision of tourist information to the public), and Marketing. Each grant requires a 20% match. If you are interested in one of these grants, contact Chuck Morse at:

Chuck Morse

State Byway Coordinator/Senior Advisor to the Secretary
Louisiana Department of Tourism
PO Box 44302
900 N 3rd St., Lt. Governor's Office
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
Phone: 225-342-1896
Fax: 225-342-1949
E-mail: cmorse@crt.state.la.us

Local Event Planner

2005 Rural Economic Development Conference

The Governor's Office of Rural Development is holding this conference from **February 1, 2005 - February 3, 2005** at Southeastern University in



Check out our Local Event Planner for upcoming events of interest.

Hammond, Louisiana. Keep an eye out for the registration information in the mail! For more information call the Governor's Office at (225)342-1618.

2005 Annual Team City Conference

The Teamwork Louisiana Team City Program, sponsored by the Entergy Corporation will hold its annual conference from **June 1, 2005 - June 2, 2005** at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Baton Rouge, LA.

Web address: www.entergy-louisiana.com/la/ed/teamcity.asp

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The Office of Community Development, as part of the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration, administers the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program. The LCDBG Program provides pass-through Federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Small Cities Program. OCD provides grants to local governments for public infrastructure, economic development, demonstrated needs, housing, and self-help projects. In addition to the LCDBG Program, OCD offers technical assistance to Louisiana's rural communities. This assistance ranges from grant research requests to this newsletter.

We're on the web!
www.doa.state.la.us/cdbg/cdbg.htm



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